United Nations A/62/912

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 45 (b)
Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 28 July 2008 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce

The President of the General Assembly has the honour to make the following solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce:

"The ancient Greek tradition of the *ekecheiria*, or 'Olympic Truce', born in the eighth century B.C., serves as a hallowed principle of the Olympic Games. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee renewed this tradition by calling upon all nations to observe the Truce.

"Through its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, the General Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce from the seventh day before the opening to the seventh day following the closing of each Olympic Games. This appeal was renewed in the Millennium Declaration.

"In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, our leaders emphasized that 'sports can foster peace and development', and encouraged the General Assembly to foster a dialogue and agreed proposals for a plan of action on sport and development.

"On 3 November 2005, the General Assembly held a plenary debate on the agenda item 'Sport for peace and development', and also adopted, with universal support, resolution 60/8, entitled 'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal', deciding to consider this item every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

"To this end, on 31 October 2007, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/4. In that resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, from 8 to 24 August 2008, and the Paralympic Games, from 6 to 17 September 2008, the vision of which is based on the slogan 'One world, one dream'.

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"The Olympic movement aspires to contribute to a peaceful future for all humankind through the educational value of sport. The Games will bring together athletes from all parts of the world in the greatest of international sports events as a means to promote peace, mutual understanding and goodwill among nations and peoples — goals that are also part of the founding values of the United Nations.

"As an expression of these common objectives, in 1998 the International Olympic Committee decided to fly the United Nations flag at all competition sites of the Olympic Games. The United Nations system and the International Olympic Committee have subsequently strengthened their mutual cooperation and support through joint endeavours in fields such as poverty alleviation, human and economic development, humanitarian assistance, education, health promotion and HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equality and environmental protection.

"As President of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, I solemnly appeal to all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce."

United Nations A/62/913

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 114 (i)
Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141 decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. In the light of the provisions of resolution 48/141, the Secretary-General proposes to appoint Navanethem Pillay (South Africa) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a term of office of four years, beginning on 1 September 2008 and expiring on 31 August 2012.

3. The Secretary-General trusts that the General Assembly will approve this appointment.

08-43796 (E) 240708

United Nations A/62/914

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 137
Administration of justice at the United Nations

Letter dated 9 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations, which, during its first session, held in April, tasked one of its Vice-Chairpersons, Thomas Fitschen, of this Mission, to coordinate informal intersessional consultations to continue work on the draft statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, I have the honour to inform you that those consultations were held in three rounds, from 12 to 16 May, from 9 to 12 June and from 30 June to 3 July 2008. The results of the consultations are contained in a paper by the coordinator, entitled "Coordinator's summary of the preliminary observations made in the informal consultations on the draft statute of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal". The paper is an updated version previously issued documents annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/63/55).

Many participants in the informal consultations emphasized the importance of informing all Member States officially of the outcome of the intersessional consultations and of ensuring the publication, in all languages, of the results well in advance of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. I therefore have the honour to request the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations for one meeting, to be held on one day between 21 July and 7 August 2008. The sole purpose of that meeting will be to take note of the oral report of the coordinator on the informal intersessional consultations and to request the Secretary-General to issue the coordinator's summary referred to above as an addendum to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 137.

(*Signed*) Thomas **Matussek**
Ambassador

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